

STATEMENT TO MICHIGAN SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ADVISING REVISIONS OF HB 5050

H.B. 5050, Intentionally Providing False Information To Criminal Investigators, should be revised or rejected because it substantially diminishes a serious criminal offense long known under the general rubric of Obstructing Justice. Far too much damage can be done to innocent citizens and to the administration of justice by those who intentionally lie to police or criminal investigators to enact penalties which serve only to diminish and trivialize crimes already punishable in Michigan by up to 5 years in prison as common law Obstruction of Justice 750.505. "Obstruction of justice includes any interference with the orderly administration of the law, including the willful and corrupt hampering, obstructing, or interfering with a proper and legitimate criminal investigation." People v. Somma, 123 Mich App 658. Federal law punishes this same offense as a serious 5 year felony, 18 USC 1001. All states prohibit this offense and none have penalties as weak or as lacking as what H.B. 5050 proposes. Minimum essential revisions for this legislation should include changing the 93 day maximum penalty to at least one year, and including all misdemeanors, not just a select list of "serious misdemeanors".

Thank you. Sincerely,



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